

Book	Ephesian – Study 15
Topic	Life Style of the Children of The Light
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If we are of God, how should we actually behave. So we are talking behavior. There are basically three areas:

- Living in the light
- Living wisely
- Living in the spirit

Ephesians 5:5-21 (ESV) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT:

How do we actually live in a royal lifestyle of a child of God? How do we actually live a life consistent with our identity as children of light?

*Ephesians 5:3-5 (ESV) But **sexual immorality** and all impurity or **covetousness** must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be **no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.** 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is **sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous** (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

So the two areas which Paul highlights is sexual immorality and covetousness, which is basically greed. These two areas of sins actually cover the entire 10 Commandments.

- The immorality is outward and obvious, so you have outward behaviour in contravention to the Law.

- Covetousness, you cannot see. It is very hidden, you cannot tell.

Amos 2:6-7 (ESV) Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;

The two sins here are sexual immorality and greed. Sexuality is related to worship, immorality is idolatry.

Romans 1:24-25 (ESV) Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

So therefore Roman says, when they suppress this idea that God is creator, as a result of that they then start to worship idols and when they worship idols they get into sexual immorality. Sexual immorality is about idolatry. We have the Ten Commandments.

- "You shall have no other gods before me.
- 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
- 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
- 13 "You shall not murder.
- 14 "You shall not commit adultery.
- 15 "You shall not steal.
- 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

The covetous person covets because worships something other than God. We should be content with what God gives. If you are covetousness that means you want something beyond what God gives. The sexual immoral person is also focused on himself, idolatry as well. The word 'porneia' is

here. Sexual immorality is first to immoral behavior. In the same passage, impure thoughts that promote immorality, talk that would promote impurity. How do Christians approach it?

The Christian approach it in two ways:

1. You have permissive church, everything also can.
2. The other one is a legalistic church, which is basically no. You can't do any of these things. The trouble is that the superficial doesn't have a really deep effect. It is burdensome, and it is ineffective.

Legalism is what we call abstracting something from its origin and using that. There are three types of legalist:

TYPE 1 LEGALISM:

Rules to obey without relationship is like computer game. I give you a list of rules, you follow this and then you go to level 3, level 4 and level 5. The trouble is that when God gave the Ten Commandments, they are in a context after He saved them from Egypt. After he saved them, he said because I saved you therefore your relationship would be like that to me. He didn't give them before. If he gives it to them when they are in Egypt, you follow the Ten Commandments, when you finish them I give you salvation. Then it is salvation by works. So, it is completely different. So, what happens, you have got Ten Commandments, is given in the context of a relationship where God is involved, where he brought them out of Egypt into the deserts of Sinai. Now when you have Legalism Type 1 you actually take away the relationship and you put rules. So, you go home and you obey and you don't covet, you don't lie, you honour your father and mother because it is the best thing to do. It is like God is distilled away and you just take the rules and all you are interested in just doing the rules. That is Type 1 legalism.

TYPE 2 LEGALISM:

Obey the letter of the law but not the spirit of the law.

TYPE 3 LEGALISM:

It is the man-made laws to ring fence. So therefore, because you are so scared that you are going to break the law and drive faster than 90, your mother buys you a bicycle. So, you cannot have your BMW car. Because it will make sure that you never break the speed limit. So basically, it is ring fencing, putting safe guards.

So, these are the three ways in church that we actually get people to conform to behavior, but it doesn't work. On the other side, it is very permissive churches. Pastor Joseph Prince of Singapore says

- Must not preach 10 commandments because the law kills and will lead to sickness and depression
- Christian life is effortless
- No need to confess our sins
- God never punishes the believer for his sins in the new covenant

Again, totally permissive on the other side. RC Sproul a theologian says,

“The essence of Christian theology is grace, and the essence of Christian ethics is gratitude.”

The basis is grace; the behavior is ethics. If you always think about your behavior, it must always be modulated by only three things. Your identity, your motive and your thinking.

IDENTITY:

*Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as **beloved** children. 2 And walk **in love**, as Christ **loved** us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

So, the basis of our behavior is the fact that we've become beloved children, identity born of love, walk in love. Walking is basically a natural normal continuous daily routine. When you walk you don't think about walking, it is actually unconscious. You are unconsciously living. So what Paul is saying is that, when you are living your Christian life in love, it is an unconscious default mode for which you really don't even have to think about it. Walking in love is a lifestyle, it is a natural default of the way you think. It cannot be intermittent, sporadic and as a whim. Now love is a sacrifice

*Ephesians 5:1-6 (ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and **gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God***

Because he gave his life for us, we who are his children will have to give our lives, because if we are transformed by his love, we will live lives of sacrificial love as well. So that's why we do things. The world's idea of love is completely different. J.F. Kennedy said, *If I don't have sex every day, I get a headache,*

Helen Gurley is a publisher of Cosmopolitan. She writes, *“My own philosophy is if you're not having sex, you're finished.” “One of the paramount reasons for staying attractive is so you can have somebody to go to bed with.”*

This is the thinking of the world. There is a letter to Diognetus, the manners of the Christians. These are non-Christians writing about Christians in the early first century. They write

“They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh “

This is actually quite an astounding because in those days they share everything including the wife, but Christians were completely different because they actually share their table, whatever they had they share with their things, but they didn't share their wives. Immorality was very common at that time in the society. If you look at the Christian idea of sex. It is a unitive act of commitment

Genesis 2:24 (ESV) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Sex is basically a lock and key. They come together in two halves and they open the door to an experience of unity. It is a unitive act of commitment. It reflects communion in God.

Isaiah 54:5 (ESV) For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

Actually, sex and marriage is a paradigm of your relationship with God. So, God is described as your husband. If you don't have a husband or you don't have a wife, it is very hard for you to envisage how that kind of love that you actually have for God. Marriage is given to us, sex is given to us so that we can experience a foretaste of what it will be with the perfect husband and the perfect wife in heaven with God.

Revelation 19:7 (ESV) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

The bride is the church of Jesus Christ. The lamb is Jesus Christ. The ecstasy of sex between the lamb and the church is actually going to happen in heaven. That means the kind of joy that you actually have, the kind of joy of which sex is only a tiny foretaste of. That's why God gave us sex. That's why God gave us marriage and God produces fruit in us. God puts His spirit in us and we produce spiritual fruits. This is the significance of sex.

There are two differences here. We will look at love and lust.

LOVE	LUST
• Seeks to love the other person	• Seeks self-fulfilment of sexual desire
• Seeks to serve the other person	• Seeks to serve self
• Specific to a person	• Non-specific
• Seeks commitment	• Avoid commitment, loyalty
• Total Intimacy inside and outside	• Intimacy on inside that is not mirrored by intimacy on out side
• Profoundly symbolic and powerfully healing	• Nothing special person depersonalised
• Acceptance and mutual disclosure	

So sex is something beautiful. It is like a beautiful painting. You look after it well, you don't put your grubby little hands on it and make sure it is free of dust. The person who covets, covets because he does not trust or worship God.

Why do you covet?

You covet because you actually value something else higher than God. So therefore, you are not satisfied with the money you earn and you want to earn more. You are not satisfied with the spouse that you have and you want somebody else's spouse. Covetousness actually covers a whole range of sins. Someone once said, if you actually live at the level of your earning capacity, you are

already covetous, because Paul says all we need is a roof over our head and the basic needs and that's all that we actually require. So, it is a sin that we all struggle with.

We have got normal desires of food, comfort, sex, competence, love, affection and power but what we do is that in covetousness we actually use all these things to live a life without God. So, we envy others, we have anxiety because you are not doing as well as other people, we take risk in our behavior, in our work, in our business and a lot of office politics. All that actually comes because you are jealous of somebody else in office and you want something that he has and you don't have. So a covetous person is an idolater. Martin Luther writes,

A man is generous because he trusts God and never doubts but that he will always have enough. In contrast a man is covetous and anxious because he does not trust God. Now faith is the master work man and motivating force behind the good work of generosity

We are covetous because we don't trust that God can provide for us. So therefore, we need a little bit more. After one house you want other house, you want the pension fund, you want this and that. There will actually be no end. If one trust God, then one doesn't actually have to be covetous.

Proverbs 21:26 (ESV) All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

The sign of your discipleship and the sign of your transformed life is a fact that you can give in your tithing, in your time, in your gifts. When you start to let go, because we are all stuck with the sin of covetousness. So, the righteous man gives and does not hold back.

1 Tim 6: 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content

(ESV) 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life

That's how we should live.

CONSEQUENCES:

If you are living a life of covetousness and sexual immorality, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. It means that if you actually have a formal relationship with God and not really a transformed relationship with God and you are just following the motions and you continue to sin in sexual immorality or with covetousness, it actually means you will face the judgement of hell. When the light comes into your life, your life will be changed. A true Christian's life will be changed. If it is not changed then you will face the wrath of God.

So how do we know whether the light of God is in you?

It is whether you are covetous or whether you are sexually immoral.

What is our identity?

We are beloved children of God. We are loved by Christ that's why we can change. Christ loved us and gave himself for us, so therefore we should give ourselves to him in reciprocation. We cannot inherit the kingdom of God if we continue in this current lifestyle, the guilt of sin and one day you will face the wrath of God. That's the motive. Thinking immorality and covetousness as idolatry. It cannot satisfy. So why should you continue in it.

METAPHOR OF LIGHT:

*Ephesians 5:7-14 (ESV) Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you **were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the **unfruitful works of darkness**, but instead expose them.*

Again, this is the same metaphor which is used in Gospel of John. We have got the light and the dark. So, this is a very common metaphor used. In darkness, your things will be evil, shameful, hidden. Things of light will be good, right and true. One time you were in darkness, which all of us lived in and now we are children of light. So therefore, because we are children of light, we cannot live like children of darkness anymore. We have got to live and walk as children of light. So again, we go back, we are beloved. Why do we change inside? Because we now have a new identity. We are beloved children, we are loved by Christ. We are no longer in darkness. We are children of the light. The other one is that the only reality is light, truth.

How do you would know that you in the light?

Basically, it is the fruit. If you produce fruit in your life, you will be in the light.

LIVING WISELY:

*Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but **as wise**, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*

Which means there are all sorts of things that you could do, but not everything is wise. There is some sort of thinking behind it. In the Hebrew, there are various words for wisdom and they give you different concepts of what wisdom is. For example:

- Musar..training , discipline...coming under leadership of someone
- Byn.. Insight--This is the skill of taking knowledge and looking inside to its deeper meaning for life.
- Hokmah..skill of living well in the midst of a complicated life

- *Haske-Practical wisdom.* It is the ability to see into a person, situation, or circumstance insightfully and navigate all the complexities of a matter.

So actually it is more than intellectual knowledge. We actually have to live with wisdom in our lives. So you can be intellectual, you could be dutiful or you could be emotional. These are the ways we actually live our lives, or we can actually have wisdom. We can be very intellectual, whatever thing comes you sort of calculate. If I do this, this will be the consequence because you are a very intellectual. Some of you do it out of duty. Others when you behave is all based on emotion. You get very emotional, you hug and kiss the person. All of us are driven by all these things. We are driven by duty, intellect and emotion. Wisdom comes in, all that is replaced by truth. The truth comes from the word of God and the word of God is the one that combines intelligence, duty and emotion, all those are under the control of the word of God. We are only able to live wisely if all these things that God has given you intelligence, your duty and emotion, all come under the power of God's word in your life. Otherwise, how you live your life, we can see some Christians when they live their lives they seem to be outward very good but then something happens and suddenly you hear, he has gone off and done that business deal and he has got into jail.

Why this happens?

It happens because they are living based on their own intelligence or duty or emotion. Because we should actually be living in a way that the word of God, the truth is in the center of our lives. Some of us will say, you will have love without truth. In the end you will have neither. Love and truth must come together. Some young people say,

- if loving you is wrong then I don't want to be right.
- When love comes so strong, there is no right or wrong.

This is again life driven either by your intellect, your emotion or duty as it were. So, if do that you will basically when love overrides the truth. Everything happens, and you basically smother that person and the person will never be able to live up to your expectations.

For example, a parent is too focused on the child. Everything is based on the child. Whatever that child does, can do no wrong one. They say, my child is always right. So, you can find that this is a kind of idolatry as well.

Knowing the times and living in wisdom.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is

So therefore what Paul is saying is that the period that we live now is under the power of the evil one, but the day is going to come when Jesus will come back again and this time it is very short and you have to make use of this time. Everything is not going to be in our lives, we are going to be in for a rough ride, but more importantly that rough ride is actually indicative of what happens in the world. The world is full of evil. We are under the control of evil one and there is only a very-very

short period of time, either time before he comes and your own personal time. So therefore, we have to actually learn to live wisely and not make foolish decisions.

Warren Buffet is 81 years old, he had prostate cancer that was couple of years ago. At 81 years old he had radiotherapy, which is actually a very-very stupid thing to have because prostate cancer will kill you in 10-15 years. Just because he is very rich, the doctor that he saw did a very foolish thing, he put him on radiotherapy, just because he is a rich man. You can be very rich, you can be very clever but you are not wise. The wisest thing for Warren Buffet was to leave the cancer alone or do some hormonal treatment so that he would live the next 10 years without any side effect. Here is a typical example of not being wise. You can do everything you like, you can do radiotherapy, but some of those options are not wise.

CT Studd was a famous missionary. He was wise to say,

"Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel bell; I want to run a Rescue Shop within a yard of hell."

He is saying that a lot of people want to live a very nice life in church, very clam and peaceful, but he had other plans. He went to the various countries in Asia and he became a missionary because he wants to live near the yard of hell to pull people from the brink of hell as it were. He said,

"Only one life, twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."

At the end of your day, every single bit of your belongings will be gone and you will be alone. Only things that are done in Christ will last. That's the most important thing to understand.

LIVING IN THE SPIRIT:

Ephesians 5:18-21 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

What are the differences between a fellow living being drunk and living in the spirit? What are the similarities and differences? How being filled with the spirit and being filled with drinking is like? Their behavior is very happy. If you are worshipping as a Christian, you are very happy. When you are filled with spirit, you will be bold. So boldness and happiness are the similarities.

Acts 2:11-13 (ESV) we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

So the Holy Spirit came upon all the disciples, 120 of them and the diagnosis by the world was 'they are drunk'. Being drunk and being filled with Holy Spirit actually have the same outward manifestation. They look the same but there is a difference. Alcohol attacks the brain.

Why you are happy and bold when you are drinking?

Alcohol actually repress, the moment alcohol depresses that it releases your innermost being and you can do all sorts of things like this, because you are less aware of reality. Alcohol depresses reality, you cannot see reality.

How is the Holy Spirit like alcohol?

2 Kings 6:15-16 (ESV) When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them"

So the servant came out when Elisha was there and camped out in front of him, all the enemy soldiers, millions and thousands. He was very afraid and he told Elisha that we are surely going to die. Elisha said,

2 Kings 6:17 (ESV) Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The young man all he saw was all the evil, all the storm troopers, the seal teams and all the tanks and all outside there, we are finished. But Elisha said, Lord you must open his eyes. The young man a whole army of angels. Now the Holy Spirit does that to you in the filling of the Holy Spirit.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

In reality, there is a whole bunch of angels out there, but we cannot see it. All you see in your life is your troubles, your relationship issues, and your health issues. If God has a guardian angel next to you, you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit lets you see the spiritual reality. So, the guy open up his eyes and he saw in real life so many angels, so he is both happy and bold. The Holy Spirit works and many of us go into this world and we are scared and we are anxious, why because we cannot see. We are just like Elisha's servant. All we can see is the problem in front of our eyes.

If God opens your eyes and you see Jesus Christ standing with you, your worries will melt away and the Holy Spirit does that.

Most of us are not happy enough to be obedient. We believe we can find joy in all the things that the world has to offer. As we cannot see reality. We cannot see the spiritual reality, so therefore we cannot enjoy it. We think that all these will bring us happiness. So, the Holy Spirit has to come and fill us and fill us with happiness. Happiness is not based on the fact that you have got a car or money but based on the joy of the spirit. It is a spiritual joy accompanied by humble realism.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 (NIV) For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Isn't that what Elisha did for the servant. It is exactly that. We get that in the gospel. When you actually preach the gospel and you see the gospel as servants of Christ, then God says, let the light shine out of darkness and make his light shine in our hearts. It means in our hearts we actually see the glory of Christ, we see the power of Christ, we see the enormity of Christ. It is just like when God says let there be light, so that the light comes into your heart and suddenly you can see that Jesus is bigger than your problem.

So you have got spiritual joy accompanied by humble realism, because Jesus Christ gave himself for us because of our sin. So, our self-esteem no longer rest on ourselves but on Jesus Christ. So, the person can be very strong and yet very humble, because the self-esteem is not based on his own merit but on Christ. You got supernaturally charged cognition, a joy that gets stronger when the circumstances get darker. It is a special kind of joy that when trouble gets worse, the joy gets stronger. Usually when the trouble gets worse, you get more sad. Spiritual joy from the Holy Spirit is complete opposite. So, you have got the signs and the spirit, you will be singing,

Ephesians 5:19 (ESV) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart

Why are you singing?

When the Holy Spirit touches you, you sing because you sense the nearness of Christ. Singing is a reflection of the joy. So, when you actually feel the nearness of Christ in your life, you break out in singing, it could be hymns, spiritual songs, psalms, making melody or even making your own song. It doesn't matter what it is. You have a life of gratitude,

Ephesians 5:20 (ESV) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

So therefore, an actual life sign of the spirit is gratitude. Gratitude is very important. If you don't have any gratitude, it means what you don't actually recognize that everything that you actually have come from God. So you come down, any good thing happens, you actually see it.

Everything that comes into your life, so energizes you because you realize that is a sign that God just touching you for example and you are always thankful to God. So, thankfulness is a very-very important aspect of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The other one is mutual submission.

Ephesians 5:21 (ESV) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

If you are filled with the spirit, you will have mutual submission. It is actually mutual but nuance. There is a nuance in terms of the kind of submission you have to one another. It is not the same way. So, you have to look at that.

Colossians 3:16-17 (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Combining Ephesians and Colossians together, so being filled with the Holy Spirit is being filled with the word of God. When you will encounter the word of God, the Holy Spirit will take that word of God about Christ and then make the beauty of Christ come alive in your heart.

Jonathan Edwards was one of the famous theologian, he started Princeton School. He described his wife, which is a very spirit filled woman before he married her. He says,

*They say there is a young lady in [New Haven] who is loved of that Great Being, who made and rules the world, and that there are certain seasons in which this Great Being, in some way or other invisible, comes to her and fills her mind with exceeding sweet delight; and that she hardly cares for anything, except to meditate on Him. . . . You could not persuade her to do anything wrong or sinful, if you would give her all the world, lest she should offend this Great Being. She is of a wonderful sweetness, calmness, and universal benevolence of mind; especially after this Great God has manifested himself to her mind. She will sometimes go about from place to place, singing sweetly; and seems to be always full of joy and pleasure. . . . She loves to be alone, walking in the fields and groves, and seems to have someone invisible always conversing with her. (Quoted in *ibid.*, 92)*

It sounds like a woman filled with the spirit of God. He doesn't describe how beautiful she is, how wonderful her golden hairs are. He describes the filling of the Holy Spirit in this particular woman and this is kind of values we should be looking in young people.

When the glory of God overwhelms us, it overwhelms our materialism, our covetousness, our selfishness, it overwhelms our fear, anxiety, our weakness, overwhelms our self-condemnation and feeling useless, wisdom of God fills our heart, so all these concepts become heartfelt realities and our lives are filled. So this is how we should be filled with the spirit of God.